

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11886 01 OF 02 261707Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /120 W
-----127162 261822Z /45

R 261654Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 11886

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11886 01 OF 02 261707Z

TAGS: IN, UR, CH, PBOR
SUBJECT: SOVIET-INDIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 4297

SUMMARY: INDIAN EMBASSY DIPLOMAT HERE SAYS VAJPAYEE
WILL BE WELL PREPARED TO DISCUSS SINO-INDIAN BORDER

PROBLEM DURING HIS PEKING VISIT, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER JULY-AUGUST THIS YEAR. SOVIETS WILL DERIVE LITTLE SATISFACTION FROM VAJPAYEE'S PEKING VISIT COMING AFTER THE DESAI-VAJPAYEE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. INDIAN EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY MENON (PROTECTT) TOLD EMBOFF MAY 26 THAT VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PRC WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE AFTER JULY-AUGUST THIS YEAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT VAJPAYEE IS NOW TIED UP WITH SSOD AND THE DESAI VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF PREPARATORY WORK THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE PRIOR TO THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PEKING. MENON CONTINUED THAT VAJPAYEE INTENDS TO BE WELL PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER DIFFERENCES IN PEKING. WITH A SMILE, HE STATED FURTHER THAT VAJPAYEE INTENDS TO INSIST TO THE CHINESE THAT HIS PEKING TALKS BE TOTALLY LIMITED TO A BILATERAL FRAMEWORK. (NOTE: MENON'S COMMENT INDICATES THAT THE INDIANS WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESIST POSSIBLE CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO GIVE AN ANTI-SOVIET FLAVOR TO THE VISIT. END NOTE.)

2. MENON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH VAJPAYEE WILL BE PREPARED TO RESUME BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHINESE DURING HIS PEKING VISIT, INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS IN INDIA COULD INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE JANA SANGH IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11886 01 OF 02 261707Z

RULING JANATA FRONT AND ITS STAND NEVER TO YIELD AN INCH OF INDIAN TERRITORY IS WELL KNOWN. DESAI WILL HAVE TO BE MOST CAREFUL IN AVOIDING GIVING AMMUNITION TO HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS ON THIS SCORE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, MENON CONTINUED, BOTH CHINA AND INDIA SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. NEW DELHI BELIEVES THAT THE JAPANESE PRESS "LEAK" THAT WANG PING-NAN WOULD INVITE VAJPAYEE TO CHINA WAS PURPOSEFULLY TIMED BY THE CHINESE TO PRECEDE WANG'S DEPARTURE FOR INDIA. BY DOING SO THE CHINESE WERE HINTING TO THE INDIANS THAT WANG WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS SINO-INDIAN ISSUES IN SOME DETAIL. DURING THESE TALKS, MENON SAID, DESAI INDICATED INDIA'S READINESS TO RESUME BORDER TALKS WHILE ALSO ALLUDING TO INDIA'S PERSPECTIVE OF CHINA AS THE "LARGER" POWER. ACCORDING TO MENON, DESAI WAS ATTEMPTING TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THAT CHINA, AS THE "LARGER" POWER, WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THE MAJOR CONCESSIONS DURING THE BORDER TALKS.

4. ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS IN

GENERAL, MENON SAID THAT INDIANS WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CANTON TRADE FAIR AND THERE WILL BE AN EXCHANGE OF "SPORTSMEN." THE INDIAN SIDE, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THAT SETTLEMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE MUST PRECEDE FULL NORMALIZATION OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS.

5. COMMENT: AS STATED REFTEL ANALYSIS, ANY STEPS FORWARD IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS WILL BE VIEWED WITH CONCERN HERE, PARTICULARLY IF THERE IS PROGRESS ON THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISPUTE. THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO GOING TO DERIVE LITTLE SATISFACTION AT SEEING A VAJPAYEE TRIP TO PEKING FOLLOWING THE DESAI-VAJPAYEE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH THE INDIANS MAY DO

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11886 02 OF 02 261709Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 11886

SOMETHING (E.G., HIGH LEVEL INDO-SOVIET VISIT) TO
"BALANCE" THIS OUT. MATLOCK

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